

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY

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FOL MOSCOW 2235 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO BELGRADE
LENINGRAD FEB 15, 1978 REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

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BELGRADE FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT EGEN UR US
SUBJECT: SOVIETS REFUSE EMBOFFS VISITS TO MAGNITOGORSK AND
KARAGANDA

REF: (A) STATE 37986, (B) MOSCOW 563(NOTAL)

1. MFA PROTOCOL DEPARTMENT INFORMED EMBASSY AFTERNOON OF
FEBRUARY 14 THAT REQUEST FOR FEBRUARY 15-18 VISIT TO
MAGNITOGORSK BY PLOCOUNSELOR AND BRITISH FIRST SECRETARY
DOUGLAS MARTIN WAS REFUSED FOR "REASONS OF A TEMPORARY
NATURE" (NOTWITHSTANDING FACT THAT UPDK HAD SAME DAY
ISSUED PLANE TICKETS). AT SAME TIME, PROTOCOL ALSO TURNED
DOWN PROPOSED TRIP BY EMBOFFS SONTAG AND BYSNEES TO
KARAGANDA, GIVING SAME REASON. (NOTE: THESE WERE FIRST TWO
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EMBASSY REQUESTS FOR VISITS TO CITIES INCLUDED IN SOVIET
REVISED OPEN AREAS LIST REPORTED REFTEL B).

2. IN FEBRUARY 14 CALL ON DEPUTY CHIEF OF MFA'S USA
DIVISION FEDOSEYEV, POLCOUNSELOR ORALLY PROTESTED ARBI-
TRARY MANNER IN WHICH SOVIETS HAVING OPENED UP THESE
CITIES DENIED FIRST TWO REQUESTS FOR U.S. EMBOFF TRAVEL.

NOTING SOME SOVIET OFFICIALS (E.G. MFA PROTOCOL OFFICER)
HAD BEEN INFORMALLY ASKING US WHETHER U.S. WOULD
RECIPROcate RECENT SOVEIT TRAVEL RELAXATIONS, POLCOUNSELOR
SAID ONLY RESPONSE HE COULD NOTE AT THIS JUNCTURE WAS
THAT THESE TWO ARBITRARY REFUSALS OF TRAVEL REQUESTS WOULD
BE PROMPTLY REPORTED TO WASHINGTON FOR 1ST CONSIDERATION.

3. FEDOSEYEV REPLIED LAMELY THAT HE WAS SORRY HE HAD
BEEN UNABLE TO CHANGE THE DECISION RE MAGNITOGORSK. AS
HE HAD NOTED IN FEBRUARY 13 CONVERSATION, FEDOSEYEV SAID
THAT MAGNITOGORSK GORKOM FIRST SECRETARY ("AND ANOTHER
MAN") WERE IN OR ENROUTE TO MOSCOW BUT HE DID NOT KNOW
WHETHER THIS HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE MATTER. IN
CLOSING FEDOSEYEV SAID THAT MAYBE WE WOULD HAVE BETTER
LUCK NEXT TIME. NOTETAKER SINITSYN ADDED IT WOULD HELP
IF REQUESTS FOR TRAVEL TO NEWLY OPENED AREAS WERE SENT
TO MFA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. (NOTE SONTAG AND BYRNES
REQUEST FOR FEBRUARY 17 TRIP TO KARAGANDA WAS SENT MFA
FEBRUARY7. POLCOONSELOR HAD INFORMALLY ADVISED
FEDOSEYEV OF MAGNITOGORSK PLANS FEBRUARY 9 AND HAND
DELIVERED LETTER FEBRUARY 10).

4. NOTIFIED OF ORU ORAL PROTEST BRITISH HEAD OF CHANCERY
SAID HE WOULD FOLLOW UP SIMILARLY.

5. RECOMMEND SWIFT HARD RETALIATIONS BY DEPARTMENT.
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MATLOCK UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

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